REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration in view of the arguments set forth fully below. Claims 1-83 were previously pending in this Application. Within the Office Action, Claims 1-83 have been rejected. By the above amendment, Claims 1, 14, 17 and 51 have been amended. Accordingly, Claims 1-83 are now pending in the application.

Claim Objections

Within the Office Action, Claims 1-19 have been objected to because of certain informalities. Specifically, it is pointed out that the original Claim 1 includes elements a, b and b. By the above amendment, Claim 1 has been amended to include elements a, b and c.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Within the Office Action, Claims 14, 17 and 51-65 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, it is stated that within Claims 14 and 17, there is insufficient basis for the limitation "the second network device." By the above amendments, Claims 14 and 17 have both been amended to specify that the middleware filter is within a second network device and further wherein the second network device comprises a personal computer. Accordingly, there is sufficient antecedent basis for the second network device.

Regarding Claims 51-65, it is stated that it is not clear how the filtered content is sent to the first network device if the filter is included within the first network device. By the above amendment, Claim 51 has been amended to specify that the middleware filter is included within the content server.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Within the Office Action, Claims 1-18 and 20-83 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,341,316 to Kloba et al. (hereinafter "Kloba"). The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Kloba teaches a system, method and computer program product for synchronizing content between a server and a client based on state information. Kloba teaches systems for enabling web content to be loaded on mobile devices, and for users of devices to operate with such web content on their mobile devices in an interactive manner while in an off-line mode. [Kloba,

Abstract] Kloba teaches that the mobile device is placed into an adapter to synchronize a mobile client with a server. [Kloba, col. 5, lines 41-52] Kloba does not teach filtering the content and sending only filtered content to a device. Kloba does not teach a middleware filter that selectively sends content received from the content server to the first network device. Kloba merely teaches that selected content is sent to the mobile device during a synchronization process.

In contrast to the teachings of Kloba, the middleware filter agent of the presently claimed invention, selectively filters the content provided by the content server such that selected content is provided to a first network device. A content server provides content to the first network device during a data synchronization between the two devices. The middleware filter selectively filters the content provided by the content server such that selected content is provided to the first network device. The middleware filter is preferably included within a second network device coupled between the content server and the first network device. In this manner, the second network device acts as a proxy for the first network device to receive the content provided by the content server. In an alternative embodiment, the content server is coupled to the first network device, without the second network device coupled in between. The middleware filter is included within the content server, and the content is selectively provided from the middleware filter, on the content server, to the first network device. As described above, Kloba does not teach filtering the content and sending only filtered content to a device. As further described above, Kloba does not teach a middleware filter that selectively sends content received from the content server to the first network device. Kloba merely teaches that selected content is sent to the mobile device during a synchronization process.

The independent Claim 1 is directed to a network of devices to filter synchronized data. The network of devices of Claim 1 comprises a content server to store content, a first network device and a middleware filter coupled to the first network device and to the content server such that during a data synchronization, content is received by the middleware filter from the content server according to the data synchronization and the middleware filter selectively sends the received content to the first network device. As described above, Kloba does not teach filtering the content and sending only filtered content to a device. As further described above, Kloba does not teach a middleware filter that selectively sends content received from the content server to the first network device. Kloba merely teaches that selected content is sent to the mobile device during a synchronization process. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Kloba.

Claims 2-18 are all dependent on the independent Claim 1. As described above, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Kloba. Accordingly, Claims 2-18 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 20 is directed to a network of devices to filter synchronized data. The network of devices of Claim 20 comprises a content server to store content, a personal digital assistant and a personal computer coupled to the personal digital assistant and to the content server, wherein the personal computer includes a middleware filter such that during a data synchronization, content received by the personal computer from the content server according to the data synchronization is selectively sent to the personal digital assistant by the personal computer according to the middleware filter. As described above, Kloba does not teach filtering the content and sending only filtered content to a device. As further described above, Kloba does not teach a middleware filter that selectively sends content received from the content server to the first network device. Kloba merely teaches that selected content is sent to the mobile device during a synchronization process. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 20 is allowable over the teachings of Kloba.

Claims 21-33 are all dependent on the independent Claim 20. As described above, the independent Claim 20 is allowable over the teachings of Kloba. Accordingly, Claims 21-33 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 34 is directed to a method of filtering synchronized data. The method of Claim 34 comprises determining content to be sent from a content server to a first network device during a data synchronization, sending the content from the content server to a second network device coupled between the content server and the first network device, wherein the second network device includes a middleware filter, selectively filtering the content according to the middleware filter and sending the filtered content from the second network device to the first network device. As described above, Kloba does not teach filtering the content and sending only filtered content to a device. As further described above, Kloba does not teach selectively filtering the content according to the middleware filter and sending the filtered content from the second network device to the first network device. Kloba merely teaches that selected content is sent to the mobile device during a synchronization process. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 34 is allowable over the teachings of Kloba.

Claims 35-50 are all dependent on the independent Claim 34. As described above, the independent Claim 34 is allowable over the teachings of Kloba. Accordingly, Claims 35-50 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 51 is directed to a method of filtering synchronized data. The method of Claim 51 comprises determining content to be sent from a content server to a first network device during a data synchronization, wherein the content server includes a middleware filter, selectively filtering the determined content according to the middleware filter and sending the filtered content from the content server to the first network device. As described above, Kloba does not teach filtering the content and sending only filtered content to a device. As further described above, Kloba does not teach selectively filtering the content according to the middleware filter and sending the filtered content from the content server to the first network device. Kloba merely teaches that selected content is sent to the mobile device during a synchronization process. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 51 is allowable over the teachings of Kloba.

Claims 52-65 are all dependent on the independent Claim 51. As described above, the independent Claim 51 is allowable over the teachings of Kloba. Accordingly, Claims 52-65 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 66 is directed to an apparatus to filter synchronized data wherein the apparatus includes a middleware filter such that during a data synchronization, content is received by the apparatus from a content server according to the data synchronization and the received content is selectively sent to a network device by the apparatus according to the middleware filter. As described above, Kloba does not teach filtering the content and sending only filtered content to a device. As further described above, Kloba does not teach selectively filtering the content according to the middleware filter and sending the received content to a network device by the apparatus. Kloba merely teaches that selected content is sent to the mobile device during a synchronization process. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 66 is allowable over the teachings of Kloba.

Claims 67-82 are all dependent on the independent Claim 66. As described above, the independent Claim 66 is allowable over the teachings of Kloba. Accordingly, Claims 67-82 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

The independent Claim 83 is directed to an apparatus for filtering synchronized data. The apparatus of Claim 83 comprises means for determining content to be sent from a content server to a first network device during a data synchronization, means for sending the content from the content server to a second network device coupled between the content server and the first network device, wherein the second network device includes a middleware filter, means for selectively filtering the content according to the middleware filter and means for sending the filtered content from the second network device to the first network device. As described above,

Kloba does not teach filtering the content and sending only filtered content to a device. As further described above, Kloba does not teach means for selectively filtering the content according to the middleware filter and means for sending the filtered content from the second network device to the first network device. Kloba merely teaches that selected content is sent to the mobile device during a synchronization process. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 83 is allowable over the teachings of Kloba.

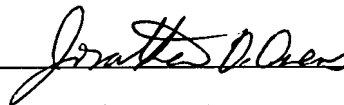## Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Within the Office Action, Claim 19 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kloba.

Claim 19 is dependent on the independent Claim 1. As described above, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Kloba. Accordingly, Claim 19 is also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

For the reasons given above, the applicant respectfully submits that the claims are now in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, they are encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
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